

Appln No. 10/632,583

Amdt date November 19, 2007

Reply to Office action of July 18, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 9 to 13B. These sheets, which include FIGS. 9 to 13B, replace the original sheets including FIGS. 9 to 13B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 were pending in this application when last Examined by the Examiner. Claims 1-4, 9, 12, 15-16, and 20 have been amended. Claims 5-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-19, and 21-22 have been canceled. Claims 23-24 have been added. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 1-4, 9, 12, 15-16, 20, and 23-24 are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the Examiner requests additional information under 37 CFR 1.105. Specifically, the Examiner requests that the Applicant provide a detailed description of the methods and technology used in the background of the specification on pages 1-6. In response, Applicant refers the Examiner to paragraphs 0032-0059 of the specification which describe the image processing apparatus and pattern-matching used in the prior art, with reference to FIGS. 9-13B. The prior art pattern-matching uses pixel interpolation techniques that are also described in detail in this portion of the specification. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this fulfills the request for additional information under 37 CFR 1.105.

The Examiner objects to the drawings because FIGS. 9-13B are not identified with the legend "Prior Art." In response, Applicant submits replacement FIGS. 9-13B which include the legend requested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nishigaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,853,738). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Amended claims 1 and 12 now recite "a pixel interpolating step for generating an interpolation pixel between pixels of a plurality of pixels included respectively in the left area and the right area, wherein the pixel interpolating step includes performing a first pixel interpolation between two first adjacent pixels along a first direction in the left area and in the

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right area, and performing a second pixel interpolation between two second adjacent pixels along a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, wherein the second pixel interpolation includes calculating an average value of plural pixels surrounding the position to be interpolated, wherein in calculating the average value the already interpolated pixels among the plural pixels surrounding the position to be interpolated are assigned a weight of less than 1." (Emphasis added). Support for this amendment is found in the specification, such as, for example, in paragraphs 0093-0098.

These limitations are clearly not part of AAPA. Nishigaki also fails to teach or suggest these limitations. Instead, Nishigaki is directed to an optical object recognition system where image portions corresponding to a window W11 are cutout from the image memory and used for calculating a distance to an object in the window. (See, Col. 5, lines 36-54). Nothing in Nishigaki, however, teaches or suggest performing the claimed first and second pixel interpolations of the pixels in Nishigaki's window as is now required by claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, claims 1 and 12 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4, 9, 15-16, and 20 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

Claims 23-24 are new in this application. Claim 23 is in condition for allowance because it depends on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that it contains. Claims 24 is a new independent claim that includes limitations that are similar to the limitations of claim 1 which make claim 1 allowable. Accordingly, claim 24 is also in condition for allowance.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 1-4, 9, 12, 15-16, 20, and 23-24 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX